

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 /023 R

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TREASURY/IDW:ARIEFFEL

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R 072215Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJECT: IRAN'S SURPLUS PROPERTY DEBT

REF: TEHRAN 3993

1. STATE AND TREASURY HAVE REVIEWED IRANIAN SURPLUS PROPERTY DEBT AS WELL AS GOI'S CLAIM FOR RAILWAY DAMAGES IN LIGHT OF TEHRAN REFTEL. WHILE WE DO NOT CONCEDE THAT GOI HAS ESTABLISHED ITS CLAIM UNDER THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE 1942 DRAFT AGREEMENT, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS GOI'S CLAIM WITH REASONABLE FLEXIBILITY, MINDFUL OF STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS.

2. AS POSSIBLE NEXT STEP, L/NEA ATTORNEY-ADVISED T. MICHAEL PEAY IS PREPARED, SUBJECT TO POST CONCURRENCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO VISIT TEHRAN SOMETIME LATER THIS MONTH FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY AND APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS, WHILE HE IS TRAVELING IN THE AREA ON OTHER BUSINESS.

3. IF EMBASSY CONCURS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AS PRELUDE TO VISIT, TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF GOI. THIS WOULD ALLOW EMBASSY TO AGAIN REQUEST

PAYMENT OF DEBT OWED USG AND BRIEF IRANIANS ON PEAY'S VISIT

AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO RAISE SUBJECT OF IRANIAN RAILWAY CLAIM AND YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT PEAY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH GOI OFFICIALS. FYI - BASICALLY, OUR VIEW AT THIS TIME IS THAT IRANIAN DAMAGE CLAIM REPRESENTS SIMPLE DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE FOR ROLLING STOCK, TRACK AND RELATED FACILITIES. WITHOUT CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF DAMAGE AND OTHER CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE SUPPORTIVE OF IRANIAN CLAIM, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN ACTUAL NATURE OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUOTE WAR-RELATED DAMAGE UNQUOTE TO GOI RAILWAYS. END FYI TO HELP US GET BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF IRANIAN POSITION, REQUEST GOI MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) IN SPECIFIC TERMS, HOW IT DEFINES QUOTE DAMAGE UNQUOTE IN RELATION TO ITS CLAIM AGAINST THE U.S.; (B) HOW IT DISTINGUISHES QUOTE WAR-RELATED DAMAGE UNQUOTE FROM OTHER DAMAGE AND DEPRECIATION INCURRED BY THE RAILROADS (E.G., IN THE U.S., FREIGHT CHARGES INCLUDE DEPRECIATION, SO FURTHER PAYMENT OF DEPRECIATION WOULD AMOUNT TO DOUBLE-PAYMENT); (C) WHAT SPECIFIC AND COMPETENT DOCUMENTATION IT RELIES UPON IN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE INCURRED; (D) A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF ITS METHOD OF VALUATION IN COMPUTING THE DOLLARS 172 MILLION DAMAGE TOTAL; (E) ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTATION THAT WOULD ELUCIDATE THE EXTENT AND SPECIFIC CHARACTER OF ITS DAMAGE CLAIM. VANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURPLUS PROPERTY, DEBT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE144605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MJOHNSON:AMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0220
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaacurb.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06d2cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 3993
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2448605
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAN'S SURPLUS PROPERTY DEBT
TAGS: EFIN, IR
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06d2cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014